

A TRIBUTE TO SHELLI-ANNE
COUCH—28TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Shelli-Anne Couch of Atwater Village.

As President of Friends of Atwater Elementary, Ms. Couch has led the turnaround of this Title I public elementary school, bringing new life to the volunteer support group which serves nearly 400 families in the Atwater Village area. She found innovative ways to generate new revenue streams, raised over \$100,000 in support of enrichment, educational and capital improvement programs for Atwater Avenue Elementary School, and created strategic partnerships with local, national and international businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals. Ms. Couch has founded and produced many events and programs that support the elementary school, including the First Annual Day of the Dead Festival with celebrity chef Curtis Stone which drew close to one thousand attendees and raised a substantial amount of money for the school.

Ms. Couch also formed a partnership with executives from Paul Mitchell Hair Products and Enrich LA to sponsor the school's first outdoor classroom program, which provides free tuition for students to learn how to make healthy life choices by gardening, eating seasonal produce, and composting. She also led the effort for school uniforms and created a "Care Closet" for families in need. In addition, she forged partnerships between the school and local organizations such as the Northland Village Church, which provides free weekly tutoring called "Homework Helpers," and the local Lions Club, which provides scholarships and free eye tests to students.

Prior to her dedicated volunteer work in Atwater Village, Ms. Couch was an international business and media executive with over twenty-five years of experience transforming how companies and people build their commerce, content and community, guiding clients like Universal Studios, Diane Von Furstenberg, and the Australian Consulate. She co-founded Billion Dollar Babes, the world's first global designer fashion sales event. Her agency's showrooms in Los Angeles, New York and London pioneered celebrity dressing and editorial placement. An award-winning journalist, Ms. Couch, who moved from her native Australia to Los Angeles in 1997, has been featured in magazines and newspapers such as *Vogue*, *The New York Times*, *The LA Times*, and *People*, and on the television show, *Good Morning America*.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Shelli-Anne Couch.

NICOLE PAPPADAKIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nicole Pappadakis for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Nicole Pappadakis is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nicole Pappadakis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Nicole Pappadakis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 116, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to attending a previously scheduled meeting at the White House with President Obama, I was absent from votes in the House on Wednesday afternoon (March 12) and missed rollcall votes 1201-124. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 120 (Conyers amendment); "yea" on rollcall No. 121 (Nadler amendment); "yea" on rollcall No. 122 (Jackson-Lee amendment); "yea" on rollcall No. 123 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 4138 with Instructions); and "nay" on rollcall No. 124 (final passage of H.R. 4138, the ENFORCE the Law Act).

TRIBUTE TO JAMES C. DOWDLE

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 14, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, on February 17th, we lost an extraordinary American with the passing of James C. Dowdle, who was 79. I rise today to do something a bit out of character. As many folks know, I am a proud University of Michigan Wolverine. Jim, on the

other hand, was a Notre Dame grad. In the Midwest, the Wolverines and Fighting Irish mix, at least in athletics, about as well as the Hatfields and McCoys. In fact, Jim was a physically gifted athlete who played basketball for the Irish. It takes a special individual for me to put aside a rivalry that runs that deep. Jim Dowdle was that unique.

I got to know Jim on a professional level. He was hired by Tribune Company in Chicago in the early 1980s to head its broadcast operations until his retirement in 1999. Tribune Company remains the largest media company headquartered in the Midwest. Of particular interest to me, Jim engineered the Tribune's purchase of the Chicago Cubs from the Wrigley family. As a lifelong, diehard Cubs fan, Jim and I agonized over the team's progress many an afternoon at Wrigley Field. Jim also persuaded legendary Hall of Fame broadcaster Harry Caray to be the Cubs' play-by-play announcer on Tribune's WGN-TV. That powerful combination spread WGN's telecasts throughout the land as cable systems and home satellites grew WGN into a national superstation. What makes the story even more remarkable is that Jim was a proud Irish-American son of Chicago's Southside, that sliver of greater Chicagoland where your allegiance is to the White Sox and whatever team is playing the Cubs. Jim used to say, "Thank God my father is buried in Calvary Cemetery. If he knew I bought the Cubs, I'm not sure he would talk to me." Over the years, Jim gambled on the future of television—investing in little-known cable channels such as the Food Network and others, adding to Tribune's broadcast station holdings, the value of which is now in the billions.

Jim Dowdle's family and civic legacy is just as remarkable. He married his beloved Sally Sayers in 1956 shortly after graduating from Notre Dame. To all, they are known as Honey and Doods. He was the father of five and grandfather of eighteen. At his funeral Mass, nine handsome grandsons, all at least six foot two, dressed in suits and Kelly green ties, served as pallbearers. At the altar, two Catholic monsignors, twelve priests and his godson (a deacon) celebrated his Mass before as many as 1,500 mourners—a powerful, visible testament to a life well led.

Long before I got to know him, Jim had conquered alcohol addiction. For decades, he counseled countless others, often complete strangers. When the word spread that Jim was nearing death, the family received numerous calls and messages from people who wanted them to know how Jim Dowdle had impacted them—saving careers, marriages, and lives. Without those unsolicited testimonials, no one would have known.

A former Marine lieutenant, years later, Jim received the Marine Corps' Semper Fidelis Award. He also received the broadcast industry's highest honor, the National Association of Broadcasters' Distinguished Service Award, as well as the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Trustee Award and induction into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame. A devout Catholic, Jim was a director of Mundelein Seminary's Board of Advisors and Big Shoulders Fund. He served as a former board chairman of Junior Achievement of Chicago, director of Loyola University's Health Systems, director of Robert R. McCormick Foundation, director of Hazelden Chicago, and trustee of Chicago's Museum of